



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 18, 1998

H.R. 3892 **English Language Fluency Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce
on June 4, 1998.*

SUMMARY

H.R. 3892 would rewrite title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which authorizes federal bilingual and immigrant education programs. It would authorize appropriations of such sums as necessary for fiscal years 1999 through 2003 to provide grants to states to ensure that all children master English. Programs under title VII are currently authorized through 2000. CBO estimates that the bill would authorize an additional \$1.1 billion over the 2001-2003 period, assuming adjustments for inflation. Because H.R. 3892 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

The bill contains no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments except as a result of complying with grant conditions.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3892 is shown in the following table.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

Under current law, programs under Title VII are authorized through fiscal year 2000, including the one-year extension provided under the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA). H.R. 3892 would authorize appropriations of such sums as may be necessary for programs for 1999 through 2003 (except for the Part B foreign language assistance program, which would expire in 2000).

Estimated Budgetary Impact of H.R. 3892

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
With Adjustments for Inflation						
Spending Under Current Law						
Estimated Authorization Levels ^a	354	362	370	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	258	335	359	324	74	7
Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Levels	0	0	0	374	383	392
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	45	300	374
Spending Under HR 3892						
Estimated Authorization Levels ^a	354	362	370	374	383	392
Estimated Outlays	258	335	360	369	374	382
Without Adjustments for Inflation						
Spending Under Current Law						
Estimated Authorization Levels ^a	354	354	354	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	258	334	352	312	71	7
Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Levels	0	0	0	349	349	349
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	42	279	342
Spending Under HR 3892						
Estimated Authorization Levels ^a	354	354	354	349	349	349
Estimated Outlays	258	334	352	353	350	349
Note: Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.						
a. The 1998 level is the amount appropriated for that year.						

CBO estimates that under this bill authorizations would be \$374 million for fiscal year 2001 and would total \$1.1 billion over the 2001-2003 period, with adjustments for inflation. Since the rewritten Title VII would serve a similar population as current law, namely immigrants and other children whose native language is not English, CBO based this estimate on current funding for Title VII.

The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 500 (education, training, employment, and social services).

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 3892 contains no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would consolidate existing federal bilingual education programs into a block grant and give states and local education agencies additional flexibility to design programs, but it also would impose some new requirements as a condition for receiving grants. The bill would also void compliance agreements between the Department of Education and states and local education agencies governing bilingual education.

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